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The Sunday Times sues CIA

From Michael Leapman
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The Sunday Times brought a court action here today against the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), seeking to force them to disclose any information they have on David Holden, the newspaper's reporter murdered in Cairo in December, 1977. The action, in the federal court in Manhattan, was brought under the Freedom of Information Act.

The Sunday Times asked the CIA 17 months ago for any facts they had concerning Holden's time at North-Western University in Illinois from 1951 to 1953 and in particular for anything about his relationship with two men. They were named as Surindur Suri, an Indian, and Dr. Leo Silberman, a Briton.

The CIA has not responded to this request, saying that they have a backlog of similar applications for information on other matters.

Routine request: Mr. Paul Eddy, of The Sunday Times Insight team, which is conducting the paper's investigation into Holden's death said that the CIA had originally been asked for any information they might have almost as a matter of routine, on the offchance. As a result of the CIA's failure to answer, however, he was now considerably more interested.

"For all we know it may just be the CIA bureaucracy gone berserk. But they are in flagrant violation of the law," he said.